

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed September 15, 2009.

Before addressing the objections raised in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully requests an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 listing of references for the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 16, 2008. The references appear to be part of the Patent Office records as indicated by PAIR.

The Office Action first reports that the pending claims are allowable with modifications to enhance clarity and understanding. With this Amendment, Applicant has first amended independent claims 1 and 20 to restructure each of these claims to have a preamble and body. It is also noted that each of these claims also have been amended to recite a processor, which is believed proper in U.S. practice.

The Office Action next reports that some references in the claims to "categorical level" should be changed to "discrete categorical level". With this Amendment, this change has been adopted in the claims.

With this Amendment, Applicant has added dependent claims 34-39 to depend from independent claim 29. These claims recite similar features to those recited in claims 5, 6, 9, 12-14, which depend from claim 1. It is believed these claims are separately patentable and are in proper form for allowance.

The Office Action includes reasons for allowance of the claims. The Applicant agrees with the Examiner's reasons for allowance to the extent that the claims of the present invention are patentable over the references in the record. The Applicant expressly traverses the reasons for allowance to the extent that any comment is intended or has the effect

of limiting a claim scope, explicitly or implicitly, by not reciting verbatim and/or in complete context, the respective claim language, or is intended or has the effect of limiting a claim scope by stating or implying that all the reasons of patentability are in any way fully enumerated.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended. Favorable action upon all pending claims is solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By:


 Steven M. Koehler, Reg. No. 36,188
 900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
 Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

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